

## *The Power of a Promise*

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**Introduction:** Your future will be determined by who you choose to trust.

- A. It is not uncommon to see people vie to gain our trust.
  - 1. Businessmen, politicians, co-workers and almost those in every relationship we have seek our trust.
  - 2. The very nature of relationships involves an expectation of mutual interest and benefit. Promises are commonly made.
- B. There is great power in a promise!
  - 1. As a child a promise of my parents carried great weight!
  - 2. We do learn from childhood that *not every promise is reliable*.
  - 3. How should I build my life? (**Prov 13:5-7**)

### ***I. How promises have changed your life***

- A. Each of us have come to where we are because of relationships and the promises that undergirded them.
  - 1. Years ago your parents made wedding vows before God. (**Mt 19:4-6**)
    - a. “For better and for worse” and “till death do us part” were promises taken seriously before God.
    - b. Real trust and communication made from a strong home.
  - 2. In your birth there was a commitment to sacrifice for you and to teach you. (**2 Cor 12:14; Prov 20:6-7**)
  - 3. Your school experience was a product of commitment and expectation.
  - 4. The peace and order of our country came from divine purposes and the execution of righteous principles. (**Rom 13:1-2**)
- B. As we leaned in childhood not everyone keeps their promises.
  - 1. Few things are as devastating to a child as divorce. (**Mal 2:16**)
  - 2. The very core of character and inward security and stability comes from the home. Our concept of God begins here too.
  - 3. One of the great challenges we have to evangelize this world is to teach the world to trust God in a world where they see little to trust!
  - 4. It is amazing to see who some people trust.
- C. Our God and His promises are the ultimate source of all that is good. (**James 1:17**)
  - 1. We serve a God that is absolutely trustworthy! (**Titus 1:2; Psa 40:4**)
  - 2. The greatest challenge we face in this life is to believe this.
  - 3. Wheel of fortune game asked this question: “Who can you trust?” God was not found as a correct answer!
  - 4. Because God has promised us concerning His nature and about what He will do, those who build upon Him will be like Him! (**Ex 34:6**)
  - 5. This stand produces a principled life that is solid and consistent.

## ***II. How God's promises change us***

- A. We know that God is able to do what he promises. **(2 Tim 1:12)**
  - 1. Many make promises they cannot keep. God can keep His.
  - 2. God wants us to read and test these truths about Him. Faith in God is not just about His existence but it must be about knowing His character!  
**(Jn 14:7; Psa 91:14-16)**
  - 3. This must be a major focus of our Bible reading and meditation.
  - 4. As I see things and people that were once special to me decay and fail, I come to appreciate the eternal certainty of trusting in God. **(Psa 20:6-8)**
- B. Abraham was changed by God's promise.
  - 1. A single man given a promise that seemed unbelievable. **(Gen 12:1-3)**
  - 2. Abraham left his home to live in tents in a very different land. The fulfillment of the land promise would come later! **(Acts 7:5)**
  - 3. Abraham knew the power of a promise from God when his son was promised. Even the promise was in present tense! **(Rom 4:17, 20-21)**
  - 4. When God asked Abraham to give his son as a sacrifice, he willingly did so but only knowing God's promise but not how God would do it!
- C. Moses was changed by God's promise.
  - 1. What a beautiful way to extend an invitation to his father-in-law.  
**(Num 10:29)**
  - 2. Do you often talk about God's promises to others?
- D. Joshua was changed by God's promise.
  - 1. It is a powerful thing to look and back say, God keeps all of His promises! **(Josh 23:14)**
  - 2. We live in such an uncertain and untrustworthy world.

## ***III. How God's promises can change your future***

- A. If you are a Christian then you have started to claim the conditional promises of God.
  - 1. There is a conditional promise that is for all men for all time!  
**(Acts 2:38-39)**
  - 2. This kind of trust is a surrender of the heart and a placing of God's promises as our hope in life.
- B. Christian, hold on to God's promises for they will change you. **(2 Pt 1:3-4)**
  - 1. As a child trusts his father, we trust our God.
  - 2. These promises are a major part of what we do when we are with other Christians! **(Heb 10:23-24)**
  - 2. Our God has told us what is between his promise and its fulfillment.  
**(Heb 10:36-39)**

***Conclusion:*** What promises have changed your life?